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Opportunity For Child Training

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Opportunity For

Child Training

Doris Rystrom and Jane Gardner, Merrill-Palmer scholars last quarter, relate the valuable training which they received in child development and family living



Merrill-Palmer students have the opportunity to direct the activity and observe development in the nursery school child

THE privilege of attending the Merrill-Palmer School in Detroit is given each year to six senior home economics students from Iowa State.

The Merrill-Palmer school, which is outstanding in the field of child development, was founded for the purpose of "training young women for the service of wifehood and motherhood and the management, supervision, direction and inspiration of homes."

Fifty students from colleges and universities all over the country attended the school last quarter. While we were there, four graduate students from China and one from British Honduras were attending.

During the first few days at Merrill-Palmer, the classes were conducted leisurely. There were no classes in the morning except for laboratories which took only two weeks of the quarter. But as time passed we were gradually caught up in such a whirl of activities that we often wondered how we would accomplish the things toward which we aspired.

All undergraduates are required to take an eight-credit course in child development in the family. Three faculty members conducted this course and at

each class meeting we chose the subjects for the next discussion. We were then free to read whatever we wished on these topics.

We chose other subjects such as nursery schools, recreational clubs, community agencies and food preparation to complete our sixteen hours. The course in education for family living consisted of visits to various high schools in Detroit. Another eye-opening course, community agencies, included field trips through Detroit to see at firsthand the services which agencies, such as the juvenile court, free clinic, visiting nurses and settlement houses conduct.

At Merrill-Palmer it is possible to make a study of children from infancy through adolescence. There are a pre-natal service, infant service, nursery school and recreational club for older children. Complete records on every phase of each child's life are kept. In the nursery school course and in the recreational clubs course we each made a special study of one child. We then had the privilege of seeing the complete record of that child.

An important part of our work at Merrill-Palmer was the workers' conference in which we discussed the children with whom we worked. We also had many individual conferences with faculty members who helped us with our special interests.

It is difficult to choose the most outstanding advantage of Merrill-Palmer, but we both agree that the faculty-student relationship rates high. The conferences we had were inspiring and worthwhile.

We spent many hours talking with our instructors about challenging and entertaining subjects.

All Merrill-Palmer students live at the school and are organized on a cooperative plan so that each takes her turn at various responsibilities. We each had the experience of being waitress, hostess and food manager. In our house there were eleven students including a Chinese student of whom we were very fond. As a residence group we entertained various members of the faculty.

Merrill-Palmer is located conveniently near the Detroit Art Institute and is only fifteen minutes from the downtown district so that we could easily hear the Symphony Orchestra or see a stage play.